

Message Text

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ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00
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O R 151531Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4202
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 1615

DEPARTMENT FOR A,

PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR APPOINTMENT AND ADVANCE OFFICE

BONN FOR BUFFALO ONLY

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR SY US XF SZ
SUBJ: PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO EUROPE

REF: STATE 84000, STATE 82068, BERN 1551

1. AT LUNCH TODAY AMBASSADOR HEGNER TALKED WITH SOME
FRANKNESS ABOUT SWISS GOVERNMENT DESIRES AND CONCERNS IN
CONNECTION WITH THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT.

2. US-SWISS COURTESIES. SWISS CONFEDERATION PRESIDENT FURGLER,
AND COUNCILOR GRABER WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HOST THE PRESIDENT
AND SECRETARY VANCE AT A MEAL. THEIR FIRST THOUGHT HAD BEEN
LUNCH ON MONDAY, BUT THEY HAVE RECEIVED INDICATIONS FROM
AMBASSADOR PROBST THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE TO ATTEND SOME
SORT OF GREAT POWER BRUNCH BEFORE COMING TO SWITZERLAND AND THAT
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LUNCH IS PROBABLY OUT OF THE QUESTION. THE SWISS, AS
AN ALTERNATIVE, WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HOST WHATEVER FORMAL
OR INFORMAL SUPPER MIGHT BE SERVED AT THE END OF THE AFTERNOON.
I POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESSURES ON THE PRESIDENT'S TIME
WERE EXTREMELY HEAVY. WHILE I HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS AND
COULD NOT SPEAK FOR THE AMERICAN SIDE, I WOULD EXPECT THAT
SOME SORT OF WORKING SUPPER WITH PRESIDENT ASAD MIGHT WELL

BE NECESSARY. HEGNER SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD, AND WAS CONFIDENT THAT FURGLER AND GRABER WOULD ALSO UNDERSTAND.

2. HEGNER THEN SUGGESTED AS A FALLBACK THAT SWISS NEEDS COULD PERHAPS BE MET IF PRESIDENT FURGLER AND COUNCILOR GRABER POSITIONED THEMSELVES IN SOME LOCATION WITHIN SEVERAL MINUTES OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING SITE. PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE COULD THEN PAY A CALL OF NOT MORE THAN THIRTY MINUTES ON FURGLER AND GRABER. THE SWISS COULD RECEIVE OUR PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OUTSIDE WHATEVER PLACE WAS CHOSEN, AND THEREBY MEET THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF SWISS PRESS, PHOTOGRAPHERS AND TV. THE COURTESY CALL MIGHT BE SCHEDULED SOMETIME SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVAL, OR BETWEEN WHATEVER AFTERNOON SESSIONS THERE MIGHT BE AND THE WORKING SUPPER, IF THAT IS WHAT WE DESIRE.

3. HEGNER EXPLAINED WHY HE BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT THAT SECRETARY VANCE, ASSUMING HE IS WITH THE PRESIDENT, ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT ON ANY CALL. THE SECRETARY WILL BE BACK IN GENEVA IN MAY TO MEET WITH GROMYKO. THE TRIAL OF GENERAL JEANMAIRE, ACCUSED OF BEING A SOVIET SPY, WILL TAKE PLACE SHORTLY AFTER THIS SOVIET-U.S. MEETING. THE JEANMAIRE CASE IS STILL EXTREMELY SENSITIVE AND THE SWISS GOVERNMENT, AND GRABER IN PARTICULAR, MIGHT BE EXPOSED TO SERIOUS PUBLIC CRITICISM IF GRABER WERE FOUND EXTENDING CONSPICUOUS COURTESIES TO GROMYKO IN MAY. HEGNER TOLD ME THE SWISS GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET THOUGHT THESE ISSUES THROUGH, BUT WOULD FEEL MORE CONFORTABLE IN A POSITION WHERE GRABER HAD ALREADY HAD A BRIEF AND CORDIAL MEETING

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WITH THE SECRETARY. IT WOULD THEN HAVE ITS OPITONS OPEN IN MAY.

4. COMMENT: SWISS PRESS INTEREST IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT WILL, OF COURSE, BE INCANDESCENT. THE NEWSPAPERS HERE ARE ALREADY WRITING FEATURE PIECES INDICATING THAT THE ONLY INCUMBENT U.S. PRESIDENT IN OUR HISTORY TO HAVE VISITED SWITZERLAND WAS PRESIDENT EISENHOWER IN 1955. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, ULYSSES S. GRANT VISITED SWITZERLAND IN THE 19TH CENTURY - BUT AFTER HAVING LEFT OFFICE. SUITABLE REPORTAGE AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF FURGLER AND GRABER RECEIVING THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY WILL BE POLITICALLY IMPORTANT TO THE SWISS GOVERNMENT. END COMMENT.

5. ARRANGEMENTS. HEGNER IS CONFIDENT THAT HE WILL HAVE AUTHORITY FROM THE SWISS GOVERNMENT TO TALK THROUGH AND AGREE ON SUITABLE COURTESIES BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY ON THE ONE HAND AND FURGLER AND GRABER ON THE OTHER. HEGNER SUGGESTS THAT SENIOR MEMBERS OF OUR PREADVANCE TEAM

MEET HIM, AMBASSADOR EXCHAQUET AND OTHER SENIOR SWISS OFFICIALS AT THE SWISS GENEVA MISSION OFFICES ON THE TOP FLOOR OF THE EFTA BUILDING AT RUE DE VAREMBE 9/11, 1211 GENEVA 20 AT 5:00 P.M. NEXT TUESDAY. HE HAS ASKED ME TO BE THERE, AS WELL AS CHARGE SORENSEN AND ANY U.S. MISSION OFFICERS MR. SORENSEN BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE. HE SUGGESTS 5:00 P.M. BECAUSE HE WOULD PREFER THAT THE PREADVANCE TEAM HAVE ALREADY SEEN THE VARIOUS SITE POSSIBILITIES AND HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCH PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS WE MIGHT WISH ON OUR SIDE BEFORE MEETING WITH HIM AND OTHER SENIOR SWISS. HEGNER IS UNAVOIDABLY TIED UP IN BERN THAT MORNING, AND AN EARLY AFTERNOON MEETING WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR HIM IN ANY CASE. WORKING LEVEL SWISS FROM THE CANTON, POLICE, ETC. WILL OF COURSE BE AVAILABLE TO ACCOMPANY THE PREADVANCE TEAM TO THE VARIOUS SITE POSSIBILITIES AND ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS OUR PEOPLE MAY HAVE. BESIDES THE GALLATIN HOUSE, THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND THE RESERVE, HEGNER SUGGESTS WE GIVE THOUGHT TO THE PRESIDENT HOTEL. REGARDING THE AIRPORT, HEGNER NOTES THAT THE NOISE LEVEL WOULD BE HIGH, AND IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CLOSE THE AIRPORT FOR THE ENTIRE PERIOD OF THE PRESIDENT'S STAY.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE PREADVANCE PARTY AND U.S. MISSION GENEVA CAN CONFIRM THAT A 5:00 P.M. MEETING AT THE SWISS MISSION HEADQUARTERS IS AGREEABLE TO ALL THOSE CONCERNED. IF IT IS, I SHALL SO ADVISE HEGNER. HEGNER OBVIOUSLY HOPES THAT MR. WOODWARD AND AMBASSADOR DOBELLE WILL BE IN A POSITION ON TUESDAY TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF A MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY, FURGLER AND GRABER. DAVIS

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